take the necessary steps to see whether anything can be done to help the Tramway Staff in this matter.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakaudi)*: The accident took place about one year ago. They are poor, helpless people, helpless people. They made a representation to me a month ago. Nearly one year has passed and no action is taken. In the other instance in the Harbour, within 3 months they deposited the amount in the District Magistrate's Court.

Deputy President: The question before the house is not whether any particular man did not get the workmen's compensation, but whether it should be made applicable to the Tramway workers. Government have given an assurance in the matter.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: The whole question will be carefully gone into.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—30—ം, 35—ം കൊല്ലം സർവ്വീസ് ചെയ്തു റിട്ടയർ ചെയ്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുമുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ കാര്യവുംകൂടി ഈ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ പെടുത്തുമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. നാരായണമേനോൻ.—അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവർക്കും പെൻഷൻ കൊടുക്കേണ്ട കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: I may be allowed to withdraw the cut motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

CUT MOTION No. 12

Improving Nelliyampathy Planting District

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Sir, I request the Chair to permit me to make a few preliminary remarks since we know now that the Hon'ble Member the Conservator of Forests is to have his last budget speech today. As the representative of an industry which is closely connected with the Forest Department, an industry which owes a lot to the very valuable services of the Conservator of Forests, it is my bounden duty on behalf of my constituency, and I believe my voice will be supported by the whole State—to say that in the retirement of Mr. Narayana Menon we will be losing a very competent and faithful servant of the State. Sir, I won't go on further except to bid him farewell on the floor of this House and to say "farewell though faithful and good servant" enjoy the rest which you have rightfully earned, but always keep a heart for our people and use your vast experience in the service of the people of the State.

With these few remarks, Sir, I wish to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,051 for B Salaries and Establishment by Re. 1, to discuss the need for improving the Nelliyampathi Planting District and adopting the recommendation of an Expert Committee.* It is well known that a road which has always been called a white elephant but which is a perfectly black one has been constructed to the Nelliyampathy Planting District at a tremendous cost of lakhs of rupees and the maintenance of that road is costing tens of thousands of rupees every year. The original idea was to open up the vast possibilities of the District and develop planting as the only excuse for that road. The intention remains there. But the planting area has not been open. On the other hand, I can recall to the house that in the edies of 1800 there were about 30 European planters alone there and there was even a race-course. The Planting District has lost tremendously. Estates have been abandoned one after another and to-day we see the woeful spectacle of 7 estates alone remaining in the Nelliyampathy District. That is the present position. The chief reason was that whenever opportunities arose for disposing of lands in that district, the opportunities were not used. When the tea boom came, no effort was made to advertise the land in the Nelliyampathy with the result that no tea grower came to our State. The result of it is that there are only roughly 2,000 acres under tea plantation in the whole of the Cochin State while in Travancore it is over 30,000. So far as rubber is concerned there are only 11,600 acres and odd, while Travancore, our Sister State with 5 times the area possesses to-day according to previous figures 1,20,000 acres under rubber cultivation, that is just ten times the area. I am sure with the new permits now issued, it must have gone to about 2 or 3 lakhs. We have all heard of the tremendous boom which was being enjoyed by the planting industry last year. Tea gardens were going at about 2,000 rupees per acre and rubber selling at Rs. 1,500 and coffee at Rs. 1,000 per acre. I do not know whether the House expects me to go into the details. I shall succinctly say that the whole question requires a re-orientation of outlook.

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We should take time by the forelock and should not let it go unheeded. There is a tide not only in the affairs of men but in the affairs of states and people. There was such a time. We did not make use of it. The present position is that we have only 7 estates in the Nelliampathies. I need not go into the controversial question whether Cochinites should be given lands there. It is not necessary. The necessity remains that the District has to be opened. The first thing that has to be done is to make the lands fit for planting. Cardamom is now enjoying a boom. It is selling at about Rs. 3 per pound. An acre of cardamom may fetch even a hundred pounds. The cost of plantation will never exceed 200 rupees. So on an investment of Rs. 200 it is possible to make a gross income of 200 or 300 rupees per annum. Government always say that they are prepared to give lands. I have made an application. I have yet to get a reply as to whether the application has been granted. It is an open application. There is nothing to hide. If a tobacco trader wants to get a licence for trading in tobacco, likewise a planter, perhaps the only one in the Cochin State to start planting in the Highlands, having made an application, certain murmurs are going on in some places that I want to get it as a favour. I want to make it clear that my application was for floating a Company preference for shares being given to Cochinites for a period of 6 months. I bring this since it comes in exact line with the general proposition discussed whether the Government are prepared to give land. Therefore the first question is, to give land. The next is, aid the planters developing the planting District. The next thing will be for the Government to open up an experimental station in the Highlands for cloves, cinchona, fruit-trees etc. Experiments are being made, I know, at the instance of my humble self. Government are making an experiment into the possibilities of cinchona. I heard a very sympathetic reply from the Hon'ble Minister that something will be done. Though the lands are fertile, they are not fit for food crops. I may immediately bring to the notice of this House that it is a very important subject and I suppose it will get the attention it deserves. I may also bring to the notice of the Government that it is impossible to grow any food crops in the Nelliampathies. There is the mommoth elephant who comes with his wives and children and his brothers and fathers-in-law, and whom you cannot stop. The only way is to dig trenches say 20 feet deep and 16 feet broad. And suppose there is a rock, you must stop the digging of the trench. So it is impossible to put up trenches. It is also impossible at the present times due to the high cost of labour. Secondly, you must remember that these areas are, what are called, 'Sholas'. These Sholas are full of trees growing like avenue trees 50 and 60 feet in height, gigantic trees, often 25 feet in girth, unclimbable and tremendous. In the case of the cardamom cultivation it is needless to cut down those trees, as we want a canopy. If the theory is, as has been raised, to cut these trees and grow hill paddy, these valuable trees will not remain there. If you fell the trees you are destroying the valuable forests without supplanting them. Therefore, that is out of the question. Then how can you prevent the bison which can leap 16 feet, an animal which is about 750 lbs. How can you keep them out? I say it is impossible. Therefore, the only possibility of making use of those lands is by giving aid to the planters and helping them in all ways without much cost to the Government. The first thing would be to grant lands at the usual rates. No favour is required. But in collecting the premia please see that they are collected in some instalments. The second is to do anti-malarial work. The 3rd is to have a dispensary, and some buildings which can be rented. I am aware that there are certain buildings there. But they are all owned by estates. This is the only thing that is required. There is a Guest House there constructed at tremendous expense. It is one of the biggest travellers' houses in the state. It is a huge building, never occupied by anybody. And look at the wonderful wisdom of the Government! While they charge Re. 1—2—0 in the Traveller's bungalow at Nemmara which is provided with electric light, fan and furniture, in the Nelliampathies they are collecting Re. 1—8—0. Just imagine the great wisdom of Government. There is not even water there. These are matters which ought to be looked into.

Please have consideration for this industry which will bring good to the State. Suppose you want to raise food crops there. A manager on a high salary will have to be appointed. Then there must be quarters. Where will he go and live? Could he ask for accommodation of Mrs. elephant. Remember Sir, that at times the elephant friends of ours do come there and smell all around. We have to frighten them away with something. That is the kind of life of a planter. You may have to construct strong buildings, What will be the cost of putting up a big building?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: What is the height of the area?

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Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: It is three to five thousand feet. It is a beautiful land. Tea, cardamom, cinchona, cloves, apples pears will grow there. It will be a garden of Heaven if properly developed.

As I said you have to put up big buildings, for the Manager, his assistants, for maistries, for coolies, etc., and then alone can you take workers over there. The bisons will not come and work for you, however strong they are. They refuse to be the slave of man. What is the ultimate result when paddy is sold at 6 annas? What will you do with the building? Will you be competing with the paddy grower here?

Mr. C. K. Nayar *(Nemmara)*: Is there a proposal to cultivate paddy there?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Yes. An expert was sent up and he was skipping and jumping on account of the leeches, and when I related this story to the Diwan he was very much amused. The place is full of leeches, swarms of leeches. It is a life of sweat and toil and sometimes of tears and not always of joy.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur)*: Then there will be pears and apples.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Pears and apples for the man who works; the one who sheds the sweat of his brow and the blood of his feet. Therefore allow the man who is prepared to work to do his work. Then what about the mosquitoes? A bite of one mosquito and you are down for eight months. Help us in all these matters. It does not matter if you don't help us. But give us at least the land. We will go and work there. I have worked in the jungle of the Nelliampathies. I am not a planter theoretically but actually so. There are men like me. Give us the land.

Deputy President: May I remind the Hon'ble Member that he has already taken more than his due share of the time.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I am sorry but the urgency of the problem required so much time.

Therefore I have only to say that the Government may make every effort to see that at least the Nelliampathy Planting District is opened up for further improvement and improved.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട തോട്ടക്കാരുടെ പ്രതിനിധി കൊണ്ടുവന്ന ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വം ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. നെല്ലിയാംപതി മല കാപ്പിയും ചായയും മറ്റും കൃഷിചെയ്യുവാൻ പറ്റിയ ഒരു സ്ഥലമാണെന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത സുപ്രസിദ്ധമാണു്. ഇതിനു പറ്റിയ സ്ഥലം കൊച്ചിയിൽ വേറെയുണ്ടോ എന്നും സംശയമാണു്. അതിലേക്കു് അവിടെ കിടക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഈ ആവശ്യത്തിനുതന്നെ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കും. മുമ്പു് അവിടെ കൃഷിചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതും, ആ സ്ഥലം ഏതേതിനു പറ്റിയതോ, ആ കൃഷികൾക്കും ഉപയോഗിക്കുകയല്ലാതെ നെൽകൃഷിക്കു് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു പല വിധത്തിലും ദോഷകരമാണു്. നെൽകൃഷി ഇന്നത്തെ നിലക്കു് ആവശ്യമാണെന്നുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥത്തെ വിസ്മരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടല്ല ഞാൻ ഇതു പറയുന്നതു്; ഒരുപ്രാവശ്യം നെൽകൃഷി ചെയ്യണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പ്രകൃതിസൌന്ദര്യത്തിന്റെ വിലാസരംഗമായ ആ മലയിലെ കാടും മറ്റും വെട്ടിനീക്കുകയും അവിടെയുള്ള വന്യജീവികളെ അകറ്റുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരും. ഇതു് കൊച്ചിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേടത്തോളം വലിയ ഒരു നഷ്ടവുംകൂടിയായിരിക്കും. മിസ്റ്റർ മത്തായി പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ കുറെ കാലത്തിനു നെൽകൃഷി ആവശ്യമാണെങ്കിലും, അതു കഴിയുമ്പോൾ ആ കൃഷിക്കുവേണ്ടി ചെയ്യുന്ന എല്ലാപ്രയത്നങ്ങളും നിഷ്ഫലമാകുമെന്നും, പിന്നീടു വളരെ കാലത്തിനുശേഷമേ അവിടെ വനങ്ങളാവുകയുള്ളുവെന്നും ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. (ഹീയർ, ഹീയർ). എന്നാൽ അവിടെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ നിക്കിവെക്കുകയും ബാക്കിയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയോ, പാട്ടത്തിനുകൊടുക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യും ആവക സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ ഉപയോഗപ്രദമാക്കണമെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചു് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur)*: On a point of information may I ask the Hon'ble Member this question. The Hon'ble member said that there are only 5 estates remaining in Nelliampathies. What was the number before?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: 30 to 40.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur)*: What is the condition of the rest?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: The rest are lying waste and covered with grass.

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Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* Sir, Nelliampathies were first developed as coffee plantations. After some time they found that it was a failure, and they subsequently abandoned the scheme. What happened is that before planting they had to clear the lands and plant only some special trees as shade-trees for coffee. These places now contain those trees. Most of the estates are now abandoned. Now small areas out of that have been utilised and the rest is lying in a neglected condition.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur):* May I know who are the owners of the Estates?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* In some cases they belong to private owners and in others they have reverted to the Government.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur):* Will they not be available for private parties to purchase?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* They have to purchase direct from the owners. But there are only very few cases like that. The bulk of it is in the hands of the Government.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Sir, I rise to support this motion. My predecessors in this debate have referred to the possibility of the Nelliampathies being developed as an ideal plantation area. But I am very reliably informed, Sir, that the Nelliampathies can be developed into a beautiful sanatorium. So I do not want to cover the same grounds covered by the other Hon'ble Members. But I only want to stress on this aspect of the matter.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* What is the height of the Nelliampathies?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* About 3,000 to 4,000 feet.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Can we get water there?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* In plenty.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* It is a highly malarial tract. I do not think that it will be within the means of a State like Cochin to attempt at an antimalarial work of such magnitude.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Our Government will do well to ascertain what takes place in other parts of the world. The area adjacent to the Panama canal was a highly malarial one.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* The question is whether the cost of the measure will be commensurate with the results achieved.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* If the Cochin Government can develop a harbour, then certainly it can very easily develop a sanatorium in the Nelliampathies.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* In the Cochin Harbour trade will be going on and the Government will be getting recurring returns. But the expenditure on this will be disproportionate to the purpose served.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* My point is that Malaria can be conquered as it has been conquered in Panama and Singapore.

Before getting into Nelliampathies proper I would like to refer to the road which leads to the Nelliampathies. From the time this road was built up till now it has cost tons of money. Lakhs of rupees have been spent when the road was constructed, and it has been costing a good deal of recurring expenditure. But in spite of this expenditure, the sad story remains that the road is not in good condition. One bridge there, one culvert here will always be damaged and it will be very rare that the top of the Nelliampathies could be reached by car. There is something wrong somewhere, either in the supervision or in the manner in which the contract is done. Government will do well to look into the matter. It is a scandal taking into account the large amount of money which has been spent on this road.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I may say Sir, that nature is more responsible than anything else for this state of affairs and in all ghat roads the condition will be the same.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* What about the road from Mettupalayam to Coonoor and Ooty?

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Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* It is comparatively of recent construction. If it is there for all the time that this road has been here it will not be in the same condition.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Whatever it be, I request the Government to look into the matter and make that road as perfect as the importance of Nelliampathies deserves.

The subject is so important that the Government will do well to appoint an ad hoc committee to go into the details to make proposals.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* Sir, first of all allow me to thank the Hon'ble Member for Planters and others most sincerely for the kind sentiments expressed by them with regard to my work as an officer of the State.

Now with regard to the motion itself I may be permitted to explain that the Government is in full sympathy with the object of the cut motion. They are well aware that this particular area is well suited for plantations of hill produce like coffee, tea and cardamom and I may inform the House that the Government are prepared to give every encouragement in this direction. But what happened was that soon after the construction of this road when applications were invited for taking up these lands for plantation purposes economic depression set in. Immediately after the opening of this road, we published in the Government Gazette and advertised in the papers that these lands are available for being leased for plantation. There were a number of enquiries also. Unfortunately the depression camein and nothing fruitful happened. As pointed out by the Hon'ble Members this area is eminently suited for the cultivation of hill produce of the kind duly referred to. As the market for such produce improved, the war has come and then again the position became difficult. The two chief drawbacks as regards the extension of cultivation in this area are (1) its highly inclined nature and (2) the difficulty of getting labour. The difficulties of finding adequate and suitable labour here, as the House is aware, considerably increased, and I doubt if it is worth while to consider the question of further extension of plantation in the locality just now. In any case I can assure the Hon'ble Member that the Government is in full sympathy with the object of the motion and Government will do whatever is possible, as circumstances permit.

As regards the appointment of an expert Committee, I do not think, as the Hon'ble Member himself will admit, that there is any necessity for such a Committee. We all know that the area is well suited for the cultivation of forest produce. There is very little for a Committee to consider. The matter will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Representing a small interest in this House, as I do, I must be obliged to the whole house for the support they have given to an industry in which only a very few people are interested. I am also obliged to the very sympathetic words of the Hon'ble Conservator of Forests. Without taking any more time of the House I shall only point out a small fact. As regards labour so far as the Cardamom industry is concerned, the labour required is next to nothing. You do not disturb the surface of the soil. Therefore no annual digging is necessary, no manuring is done. As far as possible you should not disturb the surface of the soil. The only thing that is required is two 'sickle weedings' to use planting parlance. This is all that has to be done. Speaking about labour I would ask what are you going to do to solve the post-war problem of unemployment of a lakh and over of people who have joined the war and gone to Ceylon and Assam and who will be returning to the State? Mind you over 30,000 people are now employed in Assam and Ceylon alone. Therefore this is a most constructive plan which you can take up to solve a possible post-war problem. The planting industry, if developes, could absorb a lot of labourers. I therefore request the House to adopt this motion. Unless a recommendation is made it will not be in the papers of the Government for disposal.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It will be in the papers, all right.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* The spirit of the motion is accepted, then why press it to a division?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Then I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

CUT MOTION No 13

Tea plantation—extension of

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, I beg to move *"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,051 for B. Salaries and Establishment by Re. 1."* The object of my motion is *to bring to the notice of the Government the need for getting licence for planting a greater area under tea in Cochin State.*

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